

## Ft. Huachuca Wild Life

Ft. Huachuca is home to a large and diverse wild life population. During your time at Ft. Huachuca you may encounter black bear, javelina, coyote, bob cat, deer, wild turkey, mountain lion, pronghorn, snakes, spiders and lizards, just to name a few. Although sightings of bear and mountain lion are fairly rare, other wildlife is abundant and encounters with humans are common.

The following steps should be taken to reduce the possibility of unwanted encounters.

- NEVER feed the wild life
- Store all pet foods indoors. If you feed your pets outside, remove any remaining food immediately after feeding time
- Bird feeders must be at least 8 feet off the ground and the area under and around the feeder needs to be kept clean of droppings
- Store garbage and recycle bins in your garage
- Keep your gates securely closed at all times
- Do not allow your pets to roam (this is a violation of post policy, as well as being unsafe for your pets)

There are many wonderful places to hike on Ft. Huachuca and in Sierra Vista. Enjoy your home and surrounding areas while taking precautions to remain safe. If hiking with pets, ensure they are securely leashed at all times, make noise while in remote areas and never venture into remote areas alone. Occasionally it is necessary to close, or restrict portions of Ft Huachuca due to increased wildlife activity. Obey all posted restrictions and check with the MPs if you have concerns about visiting an area that is not off limits.

To report sightings of large, predatory game, such as bear or mountain lion within the housing areas, please call the MPs at 520-533-3000

Our desert area is also home to a number of spiders, bugs and other creeping, crawling, or flying critters. You may see an increase in their activity in conjunction with monsoon. Vinegaroons and sun spiders, also called camel spiders or solifugae, are intimidating looking, and their bite/pinch is most likely painful, however, they are not venomous. The black widow and brown recluse are the only truly venomous spiders in our area. They generally avoid contact with humans.

Naturally, one of the first things new comers to the area ask about is snakes. There are 13 species of rattlesnakes in Arizona. Venom toxicity varies among the species. Although venomous, the coral snake poses little threat. The amount of venom it is able to inject is minimal.

**If you suspect or have been bitten or stung by a venomous animal, seek emergency treatment or contact your medical provider.**

[Arizona Poison Control Center](#)

(602) 635-3226 (Banner Health)

1-800-222-1222 (American Poison Control Center)

## **Ft. Huachuca Native Plants**

Ft. Huachuca also boasts abundant plant life, some of which is potentially hazardous or harmful to pets and humans. Below is a list of some of the more common indigenous plants you should be aware of.

- Oleander – shrub, many colors, entire plant may be toxic to humans and pets. Do NOT ingest any parts, wash hands after handling
- Lantana – ground cover, many colors – berries may be hazardous if ingested
- Yellow (Carolina) Jessamine – yellow vine/creeper – all parts may be hazardous if ingested
- Candelabra Cactus – milky sap may cause skin irritation
- Century Plant – sap may cause skin irritation
- Eucalyptus – although great for Koala Bears, not so great for humans or pets
- Foxglove – all parts may be hazardous if ingested
- Jimson Weed – all parts may be hazardous if ingested
- Mexican Bird of Paradise – pods and seeds may be hazardous if ingested
- Mistletoe – berries may be hazardous if ingested
- Philodendron, Pothos and Dieffenbachia – typically house plants – all parts may be hazardous if ingested
- Silver Leaf Night Shade – green fruit may be hazardous if ingested
- Virginia Creeper – berries may be hazardous if ingested
- Texas Mountain Laurel and Tree Tobacco trees – all parts may be hazardous if ingested
- Poison Oak and Poison Ivy – may cause skin irritation

**If ingestion of any suspected poison occurs, call the American Association of Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 immediately.**